

Chapter 6



USFWS

CCP Public Scoping Meeting, Island Pond, Vermont

Coordination and Consultation

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Introduction

Effective conservation begins with effective community involvement. To ensure that our future management of the refuge considers the issues, concerns, and opportunities expressed by the public and our partners, we used a variety of public and partner involvement techniques in our planning process. What follows is the chronology of public outreach activities we conducted while preparing the draft CCP/EIS for Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

Public and Partner Involvement

We began the CCP process for Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in 2006. We published our original Notice of Intent to prepare a CCP and EIS in the *Federal Register* on October 20, 2006 (71 FR 62006). This notice also announced a public scoping period and requested public and partner input into the planning process. During scoping, we solicited comments on the major issues that the public and others felt we should address in the CCP. We also held numerous public meetings throughout the Connecticut River watershed. In fall 2014, we distributed an internal review draft to over 50 individuals from at least 5 State conservation agencies, 6 federally recognized Tribes, and 5 Federal agencies, including numerous divisions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the White and Green Mountain National Forests.

Public and Partner Meetings

Refuge staff attended the following meetings where aspects of the CCP planning process were discussed.

2007	5/17/2007	Friends of Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge—Norwich, Vermont
	5/22/2007	Friends of Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge—Longmeadow, Massachusetts
	12/10/2007	Public Scoping Meeting—Norwich, Vermont
	12/11/2007	Public Scoping Meeting—Winchester, New Hampshire
	12/12/2007	Public Scoping Meeting—Brattleboro, Vermont
	12/17/2007	Public Scoping Meeting—Colebrook, New Hampshire
	12/18/2007	Public Scoping Meeting—Island Pond, Vermont
	12/19/2007	Public Scoping Meeting—Jefferson, New Hampshire
2008	1/8/2008	Public Scoping Meeting—Hadley, Massachusetts
	1/10/2008	Public Scoping Meeting—Chesterfield, Massachusetts
	1/14/2008	Public Scoping Meeting—Middletown, Connecticut
	1/16/2008	Public Scoping Meeting—Burlington, Connecticut
	1/17/2008	Public Scoping Meeting—Old Lyme, Connecticut
	2/20/2008	Public Scoping Meeting—Richmond, New Hampshire
	3/27/2008	Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership—Hancock, New Hampshire
	4/9/2008	Connecticut River Joint Commission—Headwaters Subcommittee
	4/22/2008	Norton VT Planning Commission—Ecotourism Discussion

	4/28/2008	Friends of Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge “Experts” Workshop— Hanover, New Hampshire
	5/8/2008	Unified Towns and Gores Board of Governors— Island Pond, Vermont <i>(Discussed desire for recreational opportunities, including bicycling)</i>
	5/16/2008	NorthWoods Stewardship Center Annual Board Meeting— Brunswick, Vermont
	6/11/2008	Vermont Trappers Association Monthly Meeting— Barre, Vermont
	8/14/2008	Meeting with Island Pond Business Leaders and the Northeast Kingdom Travel and Tourism Association— Island Pond, Vermont
	8/26/2008	Friends of Maromas— Middletown, Connecticut
	9/27/2008	Champion Land Leaseholder and Traditional Interests Coalition— Ferdinand, Vermont
	10/7/2008	Nulhegan Gateway Association General Monthly Meeting— Island Pond, Vermont
	11/4/2008	Nulhegan Gateway Association General Monthly Meeting— Island Pond, Vermont
	12/11/2008	Unified Towns and Gores Board of Governors — Ferdinand, Vermont <i>(Discussed desire for recreational opportunities, including requesting snowmobile access)</i>
2009	2/17/2009	Nulhegan Gateway Association General Monthly Meeting— Island Pond, Vermont
	3/11/2009	Brighton Snowmobile Club/Canaan Border Riders — Brunswick, Vermont <i>(Discussed trail sharing and access to Nulhegan Basin Division visitor contact station)</i>
	4/6/2009	Nulhegan Gateway Association General Monthly Meeting— Island Pond, Vermont
	5/4/2009	Nulhegan Gateway Association General Monthly Meeting— Island Pond, Vermont
	5/23/2009	Northeast Kingdom (NEK) Audubon Annual Meeting— Brunswick, Vermont
	6/19/2009	NorthWoods Stewardship Center—YCC Crew Leader Trainings— East Charleston, Vermont
	6/29/2009	Nulhegan Gateway Association General Monthly Meeting— Island Pond, Vermont

	7/2/2009	Nulhegan Gateway Association General Monthly Meeting—Island Pond, Vermont
	8/10/2009	Nulhegan Gateway Association General Monthly Meeting—Island Pond, Vermont
	9/26/2009	Champion Land Leaseholder and Traditional Interests Coalition—Ferdinand, Vermont
	10/26/2009	Nulhegan Gateway Association General Monthly Meeting—Island Pond, Vermont
	10/27/2009	Northern Forest Canoe Trail Meeting—Island Pond, Vermont <i>(included site visit to discuss portage/campsite on the Nulhegan Basin Division)</i>
	11/9/2009	Nulhegan Gateway Association—Island Pond, Vermont
2010	1/28/2010	Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge General Meeting
	4/10/2010	Northeast Kingdom (NEK) Audubon Annual Meeting—St. Johnsbury, Vermont
	9/14/2010	Vermont Bearhound Association—Barre, Vermont <i>(included discussion on potential changes to bearhound training season)</i>
2011	1/6/2011	Brunswick, Vermont Selectboard Meeting—Brunswick, Vermont <i>(included discussion on public use and land acquisition)</i>
	6/4/2011	Vermont Coverts: Woodland for Wildlife Meeting—Derby, Vermont
	9/11/2011	Vermont Trappers Association Annual Meeting—Barton, Vermont
	11/9/2011	Salmon River Division Friends Group—Haddam Neck, Connecticut
	11/16/2011	Mt Tom Partnership—Holyoke, Massachusetts
2012	3/30/2012	Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge General Meeting
	9/9/2012	Nulhegan Gateway Association General Monthly Meeting—Island Pond, Vermont
	10/6/2012	Champion Land Leaseholder and Traditional Interests Coalition Meeting—Ferdinand, Vermont
	10/11/2012	NorthWoods Stewardship Center–Youth Conservation Corps Crew Leader Training—East Charleston, Vermont

2013	1/28/2013	Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge General Meeting
2014	10/ to 12/2014	Meetings with State Fish and Wildlife Agencies to collect comments on the internal review draft of the CCP/EIS
	8/31/2015	Public Meeting—Columbia, New Hampshire
	9/1/2015	Public Meeting—Island Pond, Vermont
	9/2/2015	Public Meeting—Whitefield, New Hampshire
	9/9/2015	Public Meeting—Woodstock, Vermont
	9/10/2015	Public Meeting—Bradford, Vermont
	9/14/2015	Public Meeting—Beckett, Massachusetts
	9/15/2015	Public Meeting—Hadley, Massachusetts
	9/16/2015	Public Meeting—Townshend, Vermont
	9/17/2016	Public Meeting—Keene, New Hampshire
	9/21/2015	Public Meeting—Colebrook, Connecticut
	9/22/2015	Public Meeting—Glastonbury, Connecticut
	9/23/2015	Public Meeting—Chesterfield, Massachusetts
	9/24/2015	Public Meeting—Higganum, Connecticut
	10/3/2015	Champion Lands Leaseholder and Traditional Coalition Annual Meeting—Refuge staff provided an update on the status of the draft CCP/EIS and reminded attendees how they could provide comments. There were approximately 80 attendees.
2015	10/15/2015	Public Meeting—Lancaster, New Hampshire
	10/19/2015	Connecticut River Joint Commission—Lebanon, New Hampshire. Refuge staff provided an update on the status of the draft CCP/EIS and reminded attendees how they could provide comments.
	10/22/2015	Lower Connecticut River Gateway Commission—Essex, Connecticut. Refuge Manager provided an update on the status of the draft CCP/EIS and reminded attendees how they could provide comments.
	11/2/2015	Public Hearing—St. Johnsbury, Vermont
	11/5/2015	Public Hearing—Keene, New Hampshire
	11/9/2015	Public Hearing—Hadley, Massachusetts

	11/12/2015	Public Hearing—Burlington, Connecticut
	12/2/2015	Associated Industries of Vermont Forest Policy Task Force— Refuge staff provided an update on the status of the draft CCP/ EIS and reminded attendees how they could provide comments. Additionally, information was provided on the role of habitat management within the Refuge System, and more specifically, the proposed use of commercial forest practices to achieve desired habitat conditions for our Federal trust wildlife species.
2016	5/3/2016	Information Meeting—West Lebanon, New Hampshire. This meeting was sponsored by Senator Shaheen and hosted by The Nature Conservancy of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association. The meeting was open to all. Approximately 130 people attended the Q&A discussion session.
	6/29/2016	Columbia, New Hampshire. This meeting was hosted by Senator Ayotte. The meeting was open to all. Approximately 25 people attended the Q&A discussion session.

